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Title: Need to compensate farmers whose potato crop have been damaged due to 'Nabi Dhwasa" an epidemic disease in West Bengal.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Sir, West Bengal is a State which produces a good number of potatoes. I think it is the second largest potato growing State in the country. Last year thousands of potato growers lost their produce due to unprecedented navi dhasa disease. The West Bengal Government had requested the Union Government to provide compensation. As far as my knowledge goes, there was a meeting also with the Union Government. The West Bengal Government deposited Rs. 98 crore in this regard. But till today there is no response from the Union Government to this request.

Hence, I would request the Union Government to provide adequate compensation to the State of West Bengal so that potato growers can be protected. I would request the Union Government to take up this matter as an urgent one.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sandeep Dixit. I think it is a very important issue that he is going to raise.